

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A heat-treated elongate member, comprising:

a composite elongate core;

the composite elongate core including an inner core formed of a precipitation hardened material and a layer formed of a superelastic material; and

a second layer concentrically arranged about the layer formed of the superelastic material;

wherein the layer is arranged concentrically about the inner core.
2. (Original) The elongate member of claim 1 wherein the composite elongate core has a modulus of elasticity of at least 9×10^6 psi.
3. (Original) The elongate member of claim 2 wherein the modulus of elasticity is at least 12×10^6 psi.
4. (Original) The elongate member of claim 3 wherein the modulus of elasticity is at least 15×10^6 psi.
5. (Original) The elongate member of claim 1 wherein the composite elongate core has an ultimate tensile strength of at least 150 ksi.
6. (Original) The elongate member of claim 5 wherein the ultimate tensile strength is at least 180 ksi.
7. (Original) The elongate member of claim 6 wherein the ultimate tensile strength is at least 200 ksi.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The elongate member of claim 1 wherein the precipitation hardenable material is precipitation hardenable stainless steel.

10. (Original) The elongate member of claim 9 wherein the precipitation hardenable material is chromium-nickel based single stage martensitic precipitation hardenable stainless steel.

11. (Original) The elongate member of claim 9 wherein the precipitation hardenable stainless steel is essentially nickel free.

12. (Original) The elongate member of claim 9 wherein the precipitation hardenable stainless steel includes less than about 1% nickel.

13-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A heat-treated elongate member, comprising: of ~~claim 19~~

a composite elongate core;

the composite elongate core including an inner core formed of a precipitation hardened material concentrically surrounded by a first layer formed from superelastic NITINOL and having a proximal section and distal section, the inner core and the first layer being independently formed;

a flexible body distinct from the first layer at least partially overlying the distal section; and

wherein the precipitation hardenable material comprises at least two materials selected from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, chromium, tungsten, and iron and the composite elongate core further includes a second layer disposed at least in part concentrically about the first layer and formed from a material similar to the inner core material.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A heat-treated elongate member, comprising: of
~~claim 8~~

a composite elongate core;

the composite elongate core including an inner core formed of a precipitation
hardened material concentrically surrounded by a first layer formed of a superelastic
material and having a proximal section and distal section;

a flexible body distinct from the first layer at least partially overlying the distal
section; and

wherein the precipitation hardenable material comprises at least two materials
selected from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, chromium, tungsten,
and iron and the composite elongate core further includes a second layer portion disposed
at least in part about the first layer portion and formed from a material similar to core
element material.

22-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The heat-treated elongate member of claim 1,
wherein the second layer is formed of the precipitation hardened material.